



THE PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

THE
DIOCESE
OF
BLACKBURN

DB PA

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018

A TRAINING MORNING FOR ALL PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Saturday 3rd March

St Cuthbert's Church, Lytham Road, Fulwood,
PR2 3AR

9am – 1pm

Or

Monday 5th March

Trinity Community Church, Christ Church Street,
Accrington, BB5 2NA

9am-1pm

Mandy Stanton, Discipleship & Lay Ministry Development Officer, Diocesan Offices, Clayton
House, Walker Office Park, Blackburn BB1 2QE

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**FROM THE WARDEN OF PASTORAL ASSISTANTS,
MRS MANDY STANTON**

Dear Colleagues,

I have been thinking recently about the Epiphany, and the subject of gifts. An offertory prayer sometimes used in churches includes the words 'All things come from you, and of your own do we give you'. Everything we offer to be used in the service of the kingdom comes from God originally.

The gifts offered by the Magi were gold, frankincense and myrrh: a valued possession, something used in worship and prayer, and a symbol of mourning. When we think about offerings to God we often think first about our possessions and our skills and talents. I'm very grateful for the skills and the time which all of you offer to help others in your ministry as PAs. We may also talk about offering our worship and our prayers to God – and I believe firmly that the things we do, and the conversations we have, happen differently if we offer them to God in prayer before we start. And what about our griefs and sorrows? We need to offer the whole of our lives to God – our strengths and weaknesses, our love and anger, our joys and our sorrows. That can sound like an easy answer – but often if we trust God with our pain and unhappiness, we receive comfort and strength to deal with things, and God may help us to offer our experiences in love to bring help and comfort to others.

The Quiet Day held on Saturday 28th October at Quernmore, led by Jonathan Carmyllie, provided some of us with 'Holy Ground' to find time and space to be quiet and to listen to God. There were some practical issues, which we will try to resolve for future Quiet Days.

The next Training Day will again be run twice (with the same content both times) in different locations, once on a Saturday and once during the week, for the morning only. This pattern seems to allow more people to attend. The subject of the morning, in response to requests, is marriage and relationships. Details elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have any requests or suggestions for subjects for future training days, please email or phone me.

Thank you for all you do, and for your willingness to use your time and your gifts in pastoral ministry. *Mandy Stanton*

PA TRAINING MORNINGS

The Spring Training Morning will be running twice this year and will be held on Saturday 3rd March at St Cuthbert's Church Fulwood and Monday 5th March at Trinity Community Church, Accrington. It is always helpful to know numbers attending, so please return your booking form to Rosie by Monday 19th February.

The Training Mornings will be led by Lesley Jenkinson, formerly Support Co-Ordinator for the Department of Social Responsibility in Blackburn Diocese.

NEW PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Martin Millar from Scorton, Barnacare and Calder Vale was commissioned on 25th June 2017.

PASTORAL ASSISTANT EMERITUS

George Townley from Layton St Mark has taken Emeritus status after 28 years' service. Rona McClure from Hoole St Michael has taken Emeritus status after 3 years' service. Vera Milner from Fleetwood St Nicholas has taken Emeritus status after 22 years' service.

RIP

Eileen Carter from Foulridge St Michael died in February 2017. Fred Evans from Lancaster St Thomas died in August 2017. Margaret Lynch from Accrington St Mary Magdalene died in September 2017. Our sympathy and prayers are with their friends and families.

If you would be willing to receive general updates and the PA newsletter by email to save on paper usage and postage, please can you let Rosie Strachan know. You can do this by emailing her on rosie.strachan@blackburn.anglican.org or by including your email address on the booking form for the Training Day.

A full list of Chaplains and their contact details can be found below:

Accrington

Revd. Lawrence Carson-Featham
carsonfeatham@btinternet.com
01254 233763

Blackburn with Darwen

Revd. Andrew Horsfall
andrew.horsfall@elht.nhs.uk
01254 736849

Blackpool

Revd. Deborah Prest
deborahprest@icloud.com
01253 353900

Burnley

Vacant

Chorley

Vacant

Garstang

Vacant

Lancaster & Morecambe

Vacant

Leyland

Revd. Nick Mansfield
nickthevic1@googlemail.com
01772 742367

Pendle

Vacant

Poulton

Vacant

Preston

Vacant

Tunstall

Vacant

Whalley

Revd. Roger Wood
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01200 441154